### State of Transportation: Moving Washington Forward Transportation Investment for a Sustainable Recovery

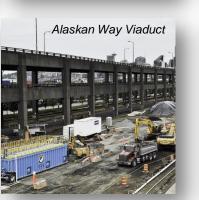
Paula Hammond, P.E. Secretary of Transportation



SR 520

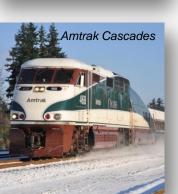
Snoqualmie Pass

Smarter Highways



**David L. Dye, P.E.** Deputy Secretary

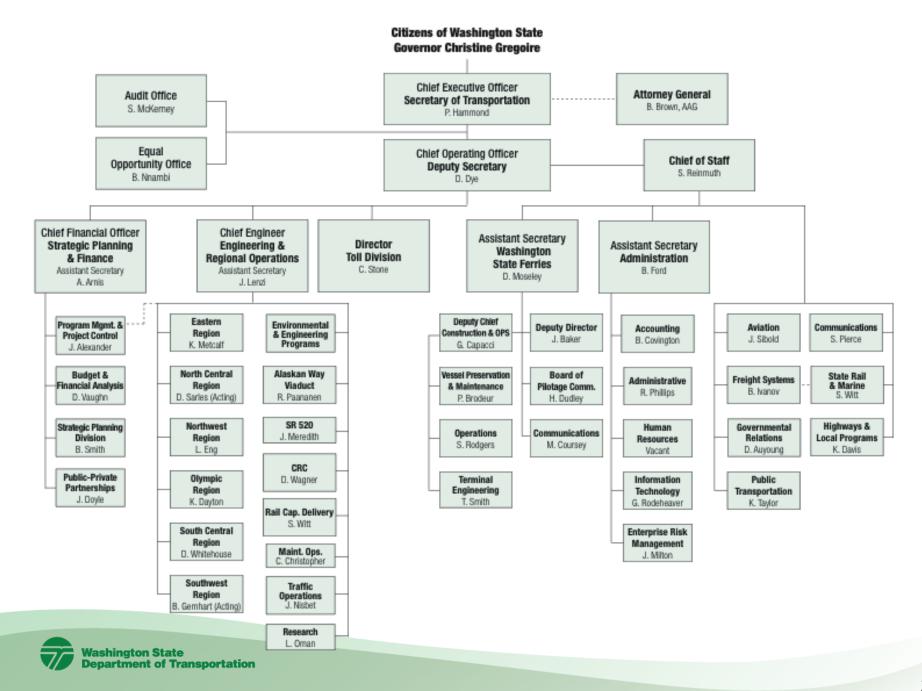












#### **Overview**

- Washington's economy depends on a strong transportation system
- Washington's transportation system a valuable asset
- Improvements have been made and benefits are recognized
- Transportation revenue does not keep up with growing needs



### Washington and the nation's recovery from the economic recession is slow

- Construction sector employment in Washington is down 30% since its peak in 2007.
  - At the start of the recession this sector made up 7% of total employment in Washington but has accounted for close to one-third of the total job losses.
  - With the near completion of ARRA projects, Washington lost 4,200 construction jobs during October/November of 2010 more than any other state.
- The current statewide unemployment rate in Washington is 9.2%.
  - People don't have money to spend, businesses can't create jobs, there is less money in the economy.
- Strategic recovery
  - Washington will continue to experience the effects of the recession for years to come. Economic recovery is a slow process--investment in transportation infrastructure will help put Washington on the road to recovery.



### Strategies to grow Washington's economy

- Governor Gregoire make... "strategic investments in roads, water, telecommunications, and energy"
  - Put Washington to work –through creating jobs and supporting small business.
- Compete in the global economy help Washington farmers and manufacturers compete internationally and recruit new companies to locate here.
- Infrastructure investment puts Washington to work through jobs now that build a transportation system that supports business and a strong economy for the future.













# Washington's economy depends on a strong transportation system

The transportation system plays a crucial role in moving people and goods.

- Over 8 million trips a day are made on the state's highways.
- **\$27 million of freight moves** on Washington roadways **every** hour of every day.
- Washington's total exports were valued at \$52 billion in 2009.
- In 2008, freight dependant industries accounted for approximately 46% of Washington's jobs.
  - Retail and wholesale distribution supports 739,700 jobs
  - "Made in Washington" products support over 627,800 jobs

Future economic competitiveness could be threatened by increased highway congestion and declining roadway conditions.







### Washington's Transportation System - a valuable asset

#### **Highways**

- Carry 86 million vehicle miles/day (on 18,500) state highway lane miles)
- 225 lane miles of a planned 320-mile HOV freeway system
- More than 3,600 bridges and structures

#### **Ferries**

 Carry 23 million passengers/year (on 21 ferry vessels, 20 terminals, and 505 daily sailings)

#### Passenger rail

 Carries over 800,000 passengers/year (Partner in Amtrak Cascades state passenger rail)

#### **Aviation**

17 WSDOT managed airports, 138 public use airports

#### Freight rail

- Grain Train delivers over 1.2 million tons of grain (Since 1994, grain train runs 118 cars including 29 added in 2010)
- WSDOT owns 296 miles of PCC railroad (Shipping during 2010 on the PCC rail system increased 20% over 2009 to 8,000 car loads.)
- 3,600 miles of public and private freight railroad moves 116 million tons of freight. (2008 data)

#### Transit support

- Commute programs support more than 810,000 commuters statewide (170 million vehicle miles traveled reduced annually)
- Vanpool program includes more than 2,400 vans (Washington has the largest public vanpool fleet in the nation)















# Washington's primary transportation revenue source is limited, committed, and doesn't keep up with inflation and growing demand.

76% of all state transportation investments are financed by the gas tax.

37½¢ Per gallon Washington state gas tax rate as of July 1, 2008 261 specific transportation projects statewide\* (2005 Transportation Partnership Projects) **Funded** 421 projects 160 specific transportation projects statewide (2003 Nickel Package projects) 23¢ **Base Gas Tax** Supports cities and counties for local roads Supports debt service to reduce **bond debt** that funded past highway and ferry projects Remains for maintenance and operations as well as preservation, safety 8¢ improvements, and congestion relief projects for state highways and ferries \* Of the 9½ cents, 8½ cents is used by the state for highway projects, 1 cent goes to cities and counties for

improvements to streets and roads.



### Non-gas tax revenue also supports non-highway transportation programs

Non-18<sup>th</sup> Amendment
Revenue Sources 2011-13: Estimated
\$620 Million Dollars\*

Vehicle Sales Tax (0.3%) / Rental Car Tax

License Fees

Other

Ferry Fares

Tolls

#### **Uses of Non-18th Amendment Funds**

**Rail Operations** 

Public Transportation

Ferry Operations (85%)

Toll Operations (HOT Lanes, TNB)

**Local Programs** 

Debt Service, Admin and Transfers

Rail Capital - State

- When the state Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) was repealed, dedicated funding for transportation and the Washington State Ferries was substantially reduced.
  - If MVET was in place today, it would generate more than \$900 million per year for all users with ferries receiving 13% of the tax.
  - Total MVET 10 year loss (2000-2009) = \$9.1 billion (ferries lost 1.78 B in revenues)



# In the last 10 years, WSDOT has transformed business practices

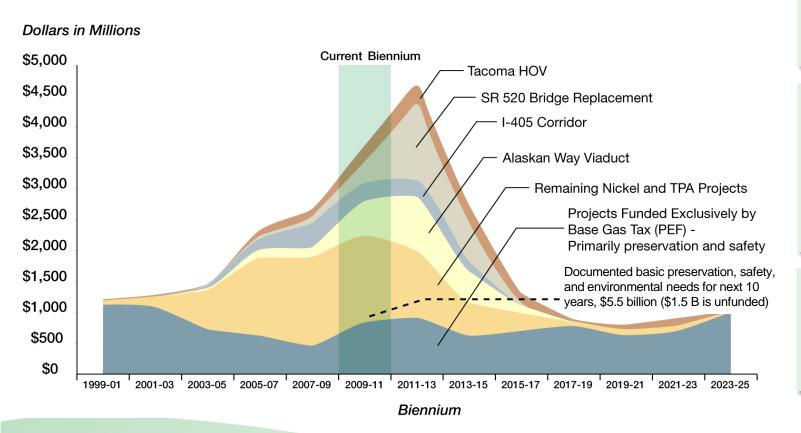
- Provided enhanced reporting transparency to the public, Legislature and Governor
- Implemented efficient project and program delivery methods.
- Institutionalized a climate of cost saving and innovative transportation solutions.
- Reducing \$65 million in 09-11 and 11-13 in administrative and overhead reductions
  - Reduced labor costs from health benefit, compensation, and pension changes in Governor's 2011-13 budget will result in an additional \$33 million in savings

WSDOT is a nationally recognized leader in project delivery, accountability reporting, performance measurement development and tracking and innovative communications.

### **WSDOT Highway construction program**

All funds from the 2003 and 2005 gas tax increases are committed.

2011 Governor proposed budget request - program total with select mega-projects highlighted



74% of highway program dollars are contracted to the private sector.

\$6 B of the \$15.5 B in Nickel and TPA will be delivered through our design-build program.

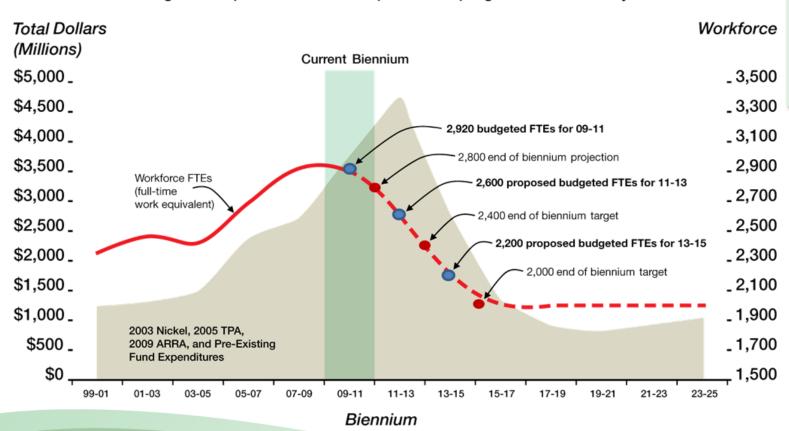
54% of the design effort for Nickel and TPA was delivered by consultants.



### WSDOT's engineering and technical support staff will decline

#### Program expenditures and workforce projection

Includes the Improvement and Preservation programs with two exceptions: Excludes expenditures for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and expenditures in the Improvement program reimbursed by Sound Transit.



Work is underway to re-invent engineering and technical services at WSDOT.



Source: WSDOT Capital Program Development and Management Office

### WSDOT is delivering Nickel and TPA projects

The **2003 and 2005 revenue packages** supported **\$15.5 billion** in **infrastructure improvements**.

#### Nickel and TPA delivery performance (as of Nov. 30, 2010)

- 294 projects are complete, 93% of completed projects "on budget", 91% of completed projects "on time."
- By Feb. 28, 2011: 346 of the 421 projects will be either complete or under construction.

#### Nickel and TPA projects create jobs

- The 2003 and 2005 gas tax funding packages are estimated to support an average of 10,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs each year over a 10-year period.
- The vast majority of the jobs supported by the Nickel and TPA are performed by the private sector.





## Nickel and TPA projects are meeting or exceed expected benefits for the public.

• Fatality accidents on Washington's roadways continue to decline from 2005, with a 6% reduction in one year from 2008 to 2009.

#### State pavements

- Over 94% of Washington's highways are in fair or better condition.

#### Bridges:

- 98% of the 3,658 bridges are in fair or better condition.
- 31% of bridges that need to be retrofitted have been or are under contract for seismic retrofit work.
- Travel delay declined by 21% on all state highways in 2009 compared to 2007.









### WSDOT delivers ARRA state and local projects

- ARRA delivery performance (as of Jan. 7, 2011)
  - State and local: \$492 million for 219 state highway and local projects
  - 185 highway projects are complete
     (34 more are awarded or under construction)
- **Transit:** \$179 million for 55 projects (rural/urban/ferries)
- High speed passenger rail: awarded
   \$751 million in recovery act funding
- ARRA highway projects have provided over \$144 million in payroll since February 2009, to employees working over 3.7 million hours
  - In November, workers earned over \$3.9 million, logging more than 93,000 hours on Washington highway projects.



- TIGER I: \$65 million (North Spokane corridor and Seattle's Mercer corridor)
- TIGER II: \$45 million (King County-South Park bridge, Franklin County-East Foster Wells Rd. extension and Port of Vancouver-West Vancouver freight access)



### Washington State Ferries program

### The ferry program continues to struggle with a lack of sustainable funding.

Nickel and TPA provided funding for:

- Three-64 car ferries
  - 1 in operation, 1-80% complete, due for delivery in May 2011, 1-30% complete due in Dec. 2011)
- Two-144 car ferries in final design stage
- Working with FTA on Mukilteo Terminal NEPA environmental process









# Federal funding for WSDOT high speed rail program

- Awarded \$590 million from the application for corridor improvements for the Seattle to Portland segment.
  - Adds 2 additional roundtrips Seattle/Portland, improve reliability from 62% to 88%, with a 10 minute reduction in travel time.
- Awarded an additional \$161 million in redirected funding from Ohio and Wisconsin.
  - Intended to add 2 reliability between Seattle/Vancouver BC and possible roundtrip and travel time savings.
- Funding supports overall program goal of more frequent and reliable Amtrak *Cascades* service.
- Crews will build additional rail line capacity and make improvements and upgrades to tracks, utilities, signals, passenger stations and advanced warning systems.







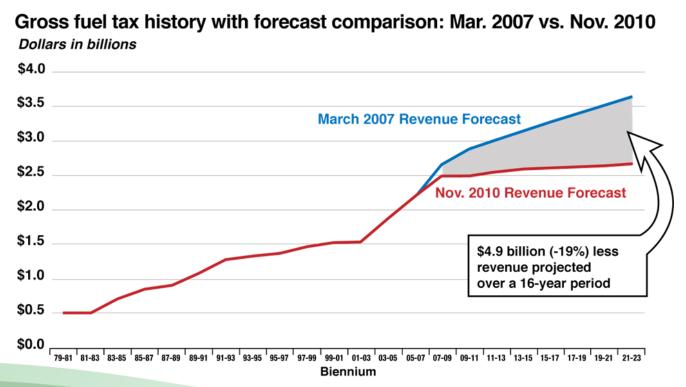
Source: WSDOT Rail Office



### Purchasing power of transportation revenue is declining

#### Revenue forecasts have been reduced

- More fuel efficient and alternative powered vehicles along with a weaker economic recovery from the recession
- Since March 2007, projected fuel tax revenues have fallen by \$4.9 billion over a 16-year period





### Federal revenues will likely stay the same or decline

- SAFETEA-LU (authorizing legislation), and current year (FY 2011 appropriations funding) extended through March 4, 2011
- Congressional transportation committees will try once again to pass a multi-year bill, but odds are against passage until 2013. Administration promises a proposal in spring, 2011.
- Funding levels are in flux. In February/March Congress will determine the final funding levels for FFY 2011 and begin to negotiate the FFY 2012 levels.
  - Earmarks discontinued in House, may be discontinued in Senate, for FFY 2012 and 2013
  - There is some bipartisan support for exempting transportation from the earmark ban
- WSDOT anticipates federal funding reductions, and forecasts receiving an average of \$580 million in formula funds in each of the next few years about 20% less than in previous years. (66% goes to state projects and 34% for local projects).
- It is critical to our investment strategy to gain federal acceptance of tolling on major state and interstate highways. This policy shift could be enacted in spite of a stalled authorization bill but is necessary as a piece of the financial plan.



# Current funding and purchasing power does not keep up with basic transportation needs

#### Committed projects deferred

 Legislature deferred 13 Nickel/TPA projects prior to 2011-13 biennium worth more than \$397 million. Even with a favorable bid climate, revenue projections indicate another 13 Nickel/TPA projects worth \$495 million may not be completely funded.

#### Basic maintenance, preservation and operations under funded at state, county and city levels in the next 10 years.

- More than \$1.5 billion on state highway system.
- Another \$1 billion needed for cities and counties.
- Over \$1 billion in capital and operating/maintenance/preservation for ferry vessels and terminals

#### New environmental commitments increase costs.

- Stormwater discharge permit requirements.
- Fish culvert case decision.

#### Local transit seeks state support

- Reduced sales tax collections mean potential service cuts.
- Affects state's most vulnerable populations.
- Transit agencies advocating for state funds to replace MVET.



# Our ability to build infrastructure and stimulate economic development is severely restricted

#### Ferry system financial plan is not sustainable

- Service cuts are being considered on the majority of ferry routes.
- Aging vessel and terminals will mean more breakdowns and less reliability.



- In 15 years, pavement will deteriorate from 94% good/fair to less than 60%.

#### Roadway maintenance service levels will decline.

- Level of service will drop from current average of B-/C+ to D/F.
- Only high-priority snow and ice removal activities.
- Rougher roads, poor striping and pavement markings, more litter and graffiti.
- Increased response times for Incident Response.









# There are growing demands on the system.

- The population is growing -- this means more people will be driving on the roads and more resources will be required to maintain the system.
  - The population of Washington state is expected to grow 20% between 2010 and 2025.
  - The number of licensed drivers is expected to **grow** 16% between 2010 and 2025.
  - Vehicle registrations are expected to grow 26% between 2010 and 2025.
  - Business and freight movement will increase in a recovering economy.

Source: Washington State Governor's Office of Financial Management; November 2010 Transportation Economic and Revenue Forecast









# There are many un-met freight priority needs in marine, rail and the statewide highway system



### Transportation projects at risk without new revenue

#### **Moving Washington**

Our three-part strategy to address congestion



Improving the performance of our state's transportation corridors by:

- Operating Roadways Efficiently
- Managing Demand
- Adding Capacity Strategically

Mega projects will remain unfinished

- SR 520 - North Spokane Corridor

- I-90 Snoqualmie Pass - I-405

#### These projects will not start construction

- Columbia River Crossing
- I-5 corridor in the vicinity of JBLM (Joint Base Lewis-McChord)
- SR 167 new freeway extension
- SR 509 freight and congestion relief
- 144-car ferry construction
- No new transportation improvements around the state
- Reduced support for special-needs transportation and transit grants
- Support for intercity passenger rail will decline.

# There are compelling reasons for additional investment in a strong transportation system

- A modern and efficient transportation infrastructure is critical for our economy and will create jobs for Washington state.
- The 2003 and 2005 Gas Tax increases funded projects that are being delivered on time and on budget and are producing real results – but all funds are committed.
- Our growing state transportation needs will outpace our current financial capacity.
- There is a great bidding climate now WSDOT is seeing more and better bids than ever before.
  - In FY 2010, contracts were awarded an average of 18% below engineer's estimates.
- A recovered economy will depend on a transportation system that works.

